

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinohara et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0128538 in view of Okabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,606,133.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicant's invention as currently amended is directed to an illuminated device comprising illumination means having at least one illumination plate. Each plate has at least one face and at least one edge. And at least one light source adapted to deliver light into the illumination plate via the edge and has a diffusion means comprising a cover having inner and outer surfaces. The plate is a forward-diffusing acrylic material from the surface of which light emerges predominantly at an angle of less than 30° from the plane of the at least one face at the point of emergence. The inner surface of the cover is disposed to overlie the at least one face to form an enclosure such that at least one face is disposed.

As previously explained, Sinohara is not pertinent. The reference does include a disclosure for light at an angle in an excess of 60° from the plane of the surface of the plate whereas our application is limited to 30° from that plane. Sinohara does have an edge which is perpendicular to the face however it is not the same face as claimed in the Applicant's invention. The Applicant has amended the claim to more clearly disclose from which plane the 30° is measured. This makes it clear which surface the Applicant is claiming the light emerges from and thus the Applicant believes the invention is patentably distinguishable from Sinohara et al. '538 and thus not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the amended claims and the claims dependent there from are in proper form. The Applicant respectfully contends that the teachings of Sinohara et al., '538 in view of Okabe '133 do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, claims 1-5 and 8-12 are considered to be patently distinguishable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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